

108 172 Is this a Great Place?

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs announced it received 145 in-

vitations from places wanting to partner with the state to become "Great

Places" through the Iowa Great Places initiative.

Included were Midwest Partnership (Adair, Greene and Guthrie counties) and White Pole Road (Dexter, Stuart, Casey, Menlo, Adair).

About 75 coaches from throughout state government are being dispatched in teams to all the places that submitted invitations. Coaches will work with the places throughout the summer to help them move their Great Place visions forward. They will

meet with representatives of Midwest Partnership Thursday, July 28 at 1:30 p.m. at the extension office in Guthrie Center.

"Iowans clearly accepted the challenge to think about what was genuine and authentic about their places and dream about what it would take to make them great places," said Anita Walker, Department of Cultural Affairs Director.

Coaches will help places identify next steps and assess their readiness to present offers to the Great Places Citizen Advisory Board to be considered one of the pilot Great Places. The board will select three pilots in early October.

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Great Place

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Governor Tom Vilsack announced the Great Places initiative in his 2005 Condition of the State address, challenging state agencies and Iowans to be bold and creative and develop new partnerships for turning neighborhoods, communities, districts, regions and other areas into great places where people want to live, work, stay and play.

Great Places designation would provide a town or region direct access to the assistance of 18 different state agencies.